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SITE ASSESSMENT FOR

PRAIRIE PAINT AND ADHESIVES

MAHOMET, ILLINOIS

TDD# 5-8305-21

Prepared by:

WESTON-SPER
Technical Assistance Team

June 1983

I. SITE HISTORY

On 11 June 1982, an Interim Status Standards Inspection was conducted at the Prairie Paint and Adhesive Company site in Mahomet, Illinois, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). A telephone conversation with Mr. Jack Waaler, of Waaler, Evans, and Gordon, Attorneys at Law, representing the CNB Trust, the bank handling the Campbell Estate on whose property the paint company is located, instigated this action.

On 2 May 1983, Region V DPO Robert Bowden requested the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to assist OSC Bill Simes in conducting a site assessment.

The purpose of the inspection was to determine the facility's compliance with the 35 Illinois Administrative Code (RCRA). During the inspection, it was noted by Glen Savage (IEPA) that the facility that Mr. Waaler represented was not operating. It was stated to Mr. Waaler that before the facility could be completely closed under 35 Illinois Administrative Code, the 81 barrels of waste must be sampled, identified and properly disposed at a permitted IEPA disposal facility. After the waste is disposed, the facility can then be closed.

After looking more thoroughly into the barrel situation at the Mahomet site, Mr. Waaler discovered that his client (Campbell Trust) did not even own the subject barrels. The barrels belonged to a Mr. Bean who reprocessed and sold the paint inside. Unfortunately, Mr. Bean [redacted].

Further investigation revealed that the 55 gallon barrels were located on 3 different properties, owned by 3 different owners. Some are located on the Peoria & Eastern Railroad land. Some are on Lot #2 which belongs to the Campbell Estate. The rest are on Lot #3 which belongs to Alpha Material Company (now apparently known as Central Material Co.). A map showing the site locations is shown in Figure 1.

On 11 May 1983, G. Steele and R. Johnson from IEPA arrived at the Mahomet site and sampled 8 barrels and took a composite sample from material laying on the ground amidst the barrels. These samples were tested for pH, EP toxicity metals and flash point. In addition, an organic scan was performed. The only sampling results received so far are for flash point. The barrels' physical observations and flashpoint results are as follows:

SAMPLING RESULTS

Barrel #	Flash Point (F°)	Physical Observations
1	-	North of facility building--thick, silver resinous material, solvent odor.
2	105°	North of facility building--light greenish yellow liquid. Dark green sludge in bottom of barrel.
3	105°	North of facility building----yellow-green liquid with sludge in bottom of barrel.
4	-	North of facility building--thick silver resinous material.
6	73°	North of facility building--thick yellow liquid, strong solvent odor.
7	73°	North of facility building--thick liquid solvent odor.
8	-	North of facility building--black to brown thick liquid. Sample taken from outside top of barrel.
9a	-	North of facility building--rusty red resinous material sampled from outside top of barrel.
9b	102°	North of facility--clear yellow liquid with green sludge in bottom of barrel.
Soil Composite	-	Composite of 5 samples taken from material laying on the ground near barrels. Dark resinous material.

II. SITE ASSESSMENT

OSC Bill Simes and TAT member Scott Ferris conducted a preliminary site assessment on 27 May 1983. The Prairie Paint & Adhesive site is located on the SW 1/4 of Section 15, Township 20 and Range 7E. This area of Illinois is known for its glacial till comprised of sand and gravel with clay lenses.

The site (Figure 1) is bordered on the north by the Peoria & Eastern Railroad tracks, State Route 47 on the west, a metal shed on the south, and a small abandoned building to the east. At the time of the site assessment, the only site security was the occasional patrol by the Mahomet Police Department. Adjacent to the site is a small bulk storage facility operated by Parker Oil and leased from Alpha Material Company (Central Material Co.) controlled by Mr. James Acheson. Some of the barrels were as close as 10 feet from the bulk tanks. The Sangamon River flows south along the east site boundary approximately 1/4 mile from the barrels. The Sangamon River flows into the Illinois River.

OSC Simes and Scott Ferris met with William Zierath (IEPA), David Jansen (IEPA), Don Karr (Karr & Associates Real Estate), and Jack Waaler (Attorney) at the site on 27 May 1983. Mr. Zierath and Mr. Jansen inspected and sampled the site earlier in the month and provided valuable assistance in inspecting the site. Since all of the outside barrels were within 60 feet of the bulk storage area, our inspection started here.

Most of the 81 barrels in this 360 sq. ft area are intact. A thick organic viscous material is permeating from the top seals of approximately 40 of these barrels. The viscous material is amber but when exposed to the sun and elements, oxidized to a dark brown color and became semi-hard. HNU readings from the fresh amber liquid were 25 ppm. The oxidized material had a HNU reading of 5ppm. The remaining drums appear to contain paint or paint sludge. Two of these drums were open and a green viscous sludge was found in the bottom of these barrels. HNU readings from the paint sludge was 10 ppm.

Soil surrounding the leaking barrels have been contaminated by the leaking barrels' contents. It appears that there are three types of barrels. The first group apparently contains an amber-colored adhesive. The number of these drums is approximately 35 with 20 of these barrels leaking. The second type apparently contains U.S. military camouflage paint. They number approximately 35 with 20 barrels intact and not leaking and 15 leaking or open to the environment. These 15 barrels all contain paint sludge with most of the volatile agent gone. The contents from the third barrel type are unknown. The barrel construction is different from the paint and adhesive barrels and should be classified as containing a hazardous flammable liquid.

After this brief inspection, it was decided by all parties attending that these barrels posed an immediate hazard due to their low flash point (73°F), proximity to the bulk tanks, (10 ft) and proximity to residential areas (200 ft). It was decided to move the barrels to the abandoned metal shed on the south side of the property. Mr. Waaler contacted Mr. Jim Tull to move the barrels to their shed.

Mr. Tull arrived at 2:30 PM, placed visqueen on the shed's dirt floor, and began transferring the drums to the shed, using a backhoe and barrel sling. Attending this action was Scott Ferris, William Zierath and David Jansen. At 5:30 pm approximately one-half of the barrels were moved into this shed. Work progressed well and by 8:00 pm the operation was expected to be completed. At the present time, the situation is as follows: The barrels are in the metal shed on visqueen. The barrels are in rows to be either sampled or staged. The trustees of the property have been notified to remove and dispose of the barrels.

III. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

The site conditions at Mahomet represent an imminent threat to human health and the environment. Health and environmental threat center on the 81 barrels of leaking organics with flash points as low as 73°F. These barrels were originally situated 10 ft from bulk storage tanks containing petroleum products. The proximity of these barrels to the bulk tanks posed an explosion threat. This threat has been somewhat reduced by the removal of the leaking barrels to an abandoned shed on site which is approximately 100 ft from the bulk tanks. In addition to the explosion hazard, the drums are leaking an unknown organic liquid onto the soil. The probaiblity that this viscous liquid would reach any navigable water is slim. But soil contamination presently exists. The lack of site security coupled with the site's proximity to a populated area magnify the potential for direct human exposure.

IV. RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE ACTION

In preparation of this Site Assessment, it is assumed that an Emergency Action Plan will be requested and that an immediate action will be undertaken in the future. Immediate actions that should be taken are listed below:

1) Sample barrels
2) Determine compatability
3) Decide whether to bulk or overpack barrels
4) Remove contamination from site
5) If waste is bulked, crush and dispose drums

6) Incinerate or landfill waste according to federal and state regulation and anticipated costs
7) Remove contaminated soil from site.

Preliminary contacts with four contractors[1] were made. They provided preliminary cost estimates for complete cleanup of the site following the above-stated parameters. These estimates do not include removal of contaminated soil.

The cost estimates ranged from approximately $15,000 to $40,000. If requested, these costs can be refined, either in an EAP or separately.

[1]Petrochem, OH, Materials, Environmental Emergency Services and Mid-America Environmental Services.

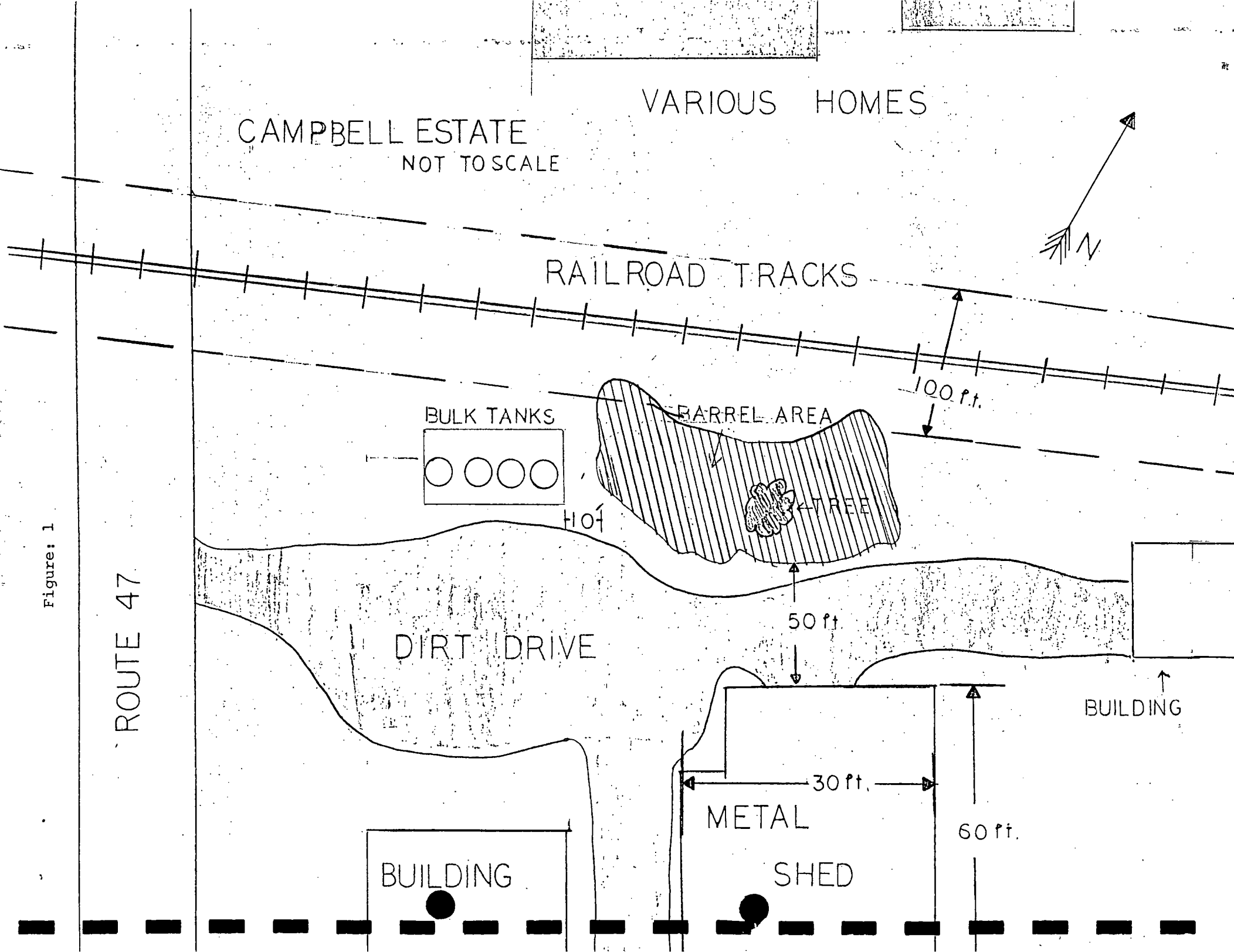
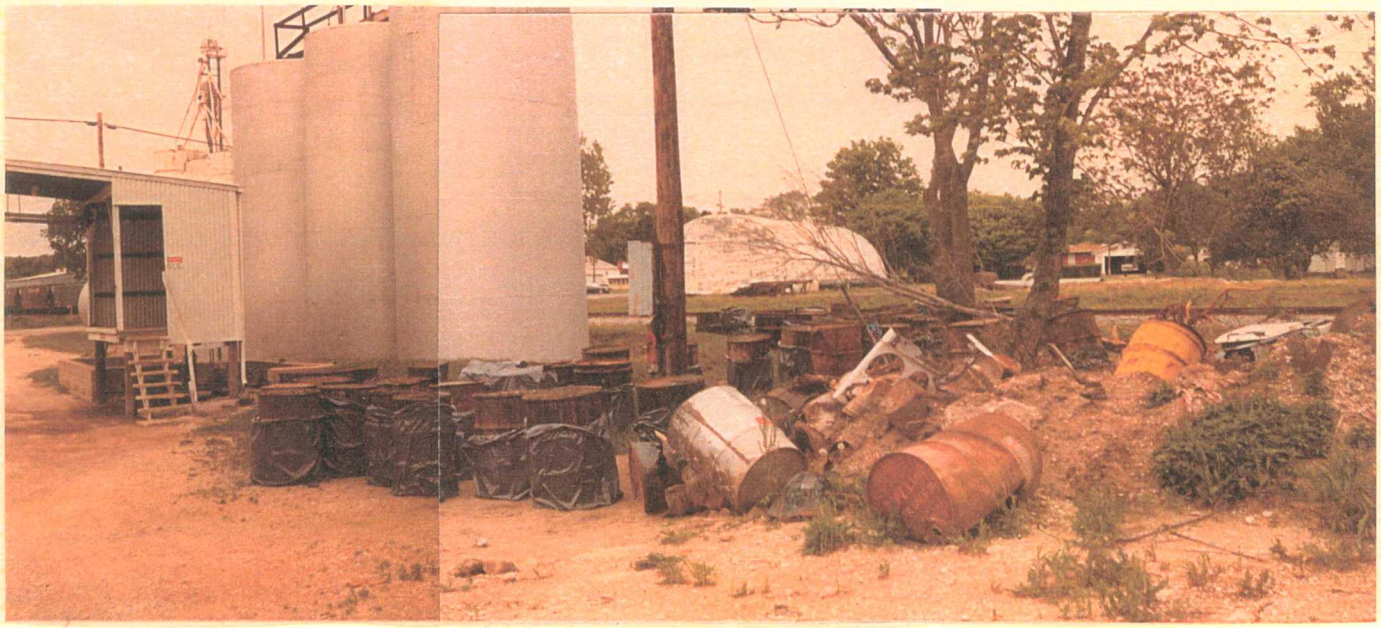

VARIOUS HOMES
CAMPBELL ESTATE
NOT TO SCALE
N
RAILROAD TRACKS
100 ft.
BULK TANKS
BARREL AREA
TREE
110'
ROUTE 47
DIRT DRIVE
50 ft.
BUILDING
30 ft.
METAL
SHED
60 ft.
BUILDING

Figure: 1

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